

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5-6 and 8-21 are in the application.

The indication that claim 2 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form is noted with appreciation. To that end, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the limitation of claim 2. Claim 2 has accordingly been canceled.


Claims 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 are dependent on, and therefore narrower than, allowable claim 1. These dependent claims are therefore also allowable.

Applicants have noted the art cited by the Examiner but not relied upon with interest. None of these prior art references vitiate the patentability of the present claims.

The present amendments are believed to dispose of all issues in this case. Passing of this application to issue is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency associated with this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 03-1677.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, Joan C. Ramm, hereby certify that this Amendment and Response is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail on 14 June 2004 in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


Joan C. Ramm